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BALTIMORE MAN SENTENCED IN MARIJUANA CASE

Baltimore, Maryland – United States Attorney Allen F. Loucks announced today that Antony J. Marcantoni, age 24, of Baltimore appeared in federal court in Baltimore and was sentenced by U.S. District Court Judge Andre M. Davis to serve a term of 60 months in prison.

On November 15, 2004, Marcantoni ended a 2 ½ week long jury trial by pleading guilty to conspiracy to distribute marijuana, identify fraud, making false statements to a federal agent and money laundering. The trial began on October 25, 2004 and as the government's case neared its conclusion, Marcantoni informed the court he was changing his plea to guilty.

According to testimony at trial, in May 2002 approximately eighty pounds of marijuana which were to be transported from Washington state to Marcantoni in Baltimore. The marijuana was discovered during a traffic stop in Wyoming. During this same time frame Marcantoni was arrested in Houston, Texas, after police found approximately 146.3 pounds of marijuana contained in plastic garbage bags in the trunk of the car in which Marcantoni was riding. At the time of his arrest, Marcantoni falsely claimed to be "JS" and presented JS' Maryland driver's license to substantiate his false claim of identity. As a result, he was arrested, charged, indicted and eventually released

on bail under the name JS. The Maryland driver's license issued to JS had been borrowed by Marcantoni from JS in August 2001, in order that Marcantoni, who was under the age of 21 at the time, could gain admission to a bar in Baltimore, Maryland.

On approximately 6 occasions Marcantoni appeared in Court in Houston and represented to the presiding judge that he was JS.

On September, 19, 2002, Marcantoni appeared at the Office of the United States Attorney in the United States Courthouse, Baltimore, Maryland, in response to a federal grand jury subpoena. At that time, Marcantoni falsely represented both orally and in writing, that his name was JS and that his date of birth was March 4, 1980, when in fact his name is Antony Joseph Marcantoni and his real date of birth is November 6, 1980.

Agents later found out that the real JS had enlisted in the United States Navy and was deployed aboard a United States Navy warship from April through September 2002.

Finally, in September 2001, Marcantoni assisted in transporting currency in the amount of approximately \$70,000, from Maryland to Washington. Marcantoni knew that the funds were the proceeds of a conspiracy to distribute marijuana, an unlawful activity.

This case was investigated by the Hagerstown Office of the United States Drug Enforcement Administration and the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division. It was prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Andrew G.W. Norman.